

III. REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, 12, 14-16 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Osawa (GB 2 275 800 A) in view of Bush (US 6,397,186) for reasons set forth in the Action. Claims 4 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Osawa in view of Bush and Darbee (US 6,130,726), claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Osawa in view of Bush, and claims 11, 13, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Osawa in view of Bush and Houser (US 5,774,859) for reasons set forth in the Office Action.

The following argument is presented to distinguish the present claims from the teachings of the cited art, thereby to overcome the foregoing rejections, and to provide allowable subject matter in the claims.

In the Office Action, with respect to the rejections of independent claims 1, 10, 12 and 14, the examiner notes that Osawa does not explicitly disclose inputting of control information followed by interpretation in accordance with available applications with checking whether the information is known, unambiguous, and complete; and in the case of claim 10, noting further that Osawa does not signal a user of the invention to resolve a lack of knowledge or ambiguity or incompleteness of the control information. The examiner then cites Bush to teach the missing elements of the claimed invention.

It is urged that Bush fails to supply the elements of the invention that are missing from the disclosure of Osawa. As noted in the previous response, in Bush, a major part of his teaching is directed to the processing of a spoken word to extract intelligence from the spoken word so that his system can respond to a spoken command. For example, in Fig. 14a, the right hand column discloses process steps of generating a pattern (S309), performing pattern recognition (S310), and recognition of appliance category name; these steps relating to the extraction of intelligence from the spoken word. This does

not relate to the implementation of requests to provide further data, such as is present already in the independent claims. A similar observation applies to Fig. 16a, right hand column, at blocks S369, S370, and S371 wherein there is detection of a voice command, the generation of a pattern, and pattern recognition.

The examiner, in support of his utilization of Bush in the rejection of the independent claims, refers to the Bush teachings in column 5 at lines 30-32, and in col. 22 at lines 42-47, wherein Bush teaches that the user may speak the word "Sports" to obtain a specific television channel; and that an indicator illuminates to show presence of a recognition error. Clearly, these cited passages of Bush do not anticipate or suggest the claimed subject matter.

The foregoing citations of Bush constitute a total of two sentences, which are relied upon by the examiner to teach the following passages from claim 10:

"control information being inputted by a user" is interpreted "in accordance with available ones of the application devices by checking whether the control information is known, unambiguous and complete for one of the application devices" "by checking whether the control information is known, unambiguous and complete" and "in the event of the presence of a lack of knowledge or ambiguity or incompleteness of the control information, the system signaling to the user to resolve a lack of knowledge or ambiguity or incompleteness of the control information, the signaling to the user being independent of a permanently predetermined menu structure, the signaling enabling the user to enter a response for resolving the lack of knowledge or ambiguity or incompleteness of the control information to insure that the control information is known, unambiguous and complete for one of the application devices"

However, the cited passages of Bush teach only that the Bush system can recognize a specific word (col. 5), and with reference to col. 21 at line 64 to col. 22 at line 47, whether the sound of speech has been recognized.

It is urged that there is no indication in the combined teachings of Bush with Osawa of the features of the invention associated with the claimed passage of “checking whether the control information is known, unambiguous and complete”. Present Fig. 3 shows different procedural steps that are accomplished based on the outcome of each of the foregoing checks.

It is not understood how the examiner can believe that all of the above-quoted material from independent claim 10 (which claim has more detail than the other independent claims) can be suggested by the cited passages in Bush taken in combination with the teachings of Osawa. It would seem that, at most, the teaching of Bush might be understood as suggesting how one might recognize a word of the control information corresponding to the step in present Fig. 3 at S12, and discussed in the present specification (page 5 at lines 29-30), which states that an input identification is first performed in step S12.

Possibly, the examiner regards the claim language as being so broad as to cover what is taught by Bush. Accordingly, each of the independent claims 1 and 10 is amended to state specifically that there is a step of identifying the received control information. Corresponding language is inserted into claims 12 and 14 stating that the system is operative to identify the received control information. In addition, claim 1 is amended to state “an instruction of the control information input”, claim 10 is amended to state “interpreting an instruction of the control information”, and each of claims claim 12 and 14 is amended to state “to interpret an instruction of the control information”. The interpretation of an instruction finds support in present Fig. 3 at block S15.

In view of the foregoing amendments, the claims clearly distinguish between the operation (or step) of identification of incoming control information and the operation (or step) interpretation of an instruction. With these amendments, it is urged that the examiner has adequate grounds for distinguishing between the identification of sounds,

discussed in Bush, and the interpretation of instructions, along with the limitations of "checking whether the control information is known, unambiguous and complete", that are not discussed in Bush. This material that is not disclosed in Bush leads to the various operational steps of the present system having an electronic device, as disclosed in present Fig. 3 and to the accompanying text of the specification.

Therefore, it is urged that Osawa, taken alone or in combination with one or more of the other cited references, does not suggest the invention as set forth in the independent claims nor in any of the dependent claims. Furthermore, it is urged that the cited passages from Bush would not motivate one to combine the teachings of the cited references, with respect to the claims as now amended. Accordingly, it is believed that this argument and amendment has overcome the grounds of rejection so as to secure allowable subject matter in the claims.

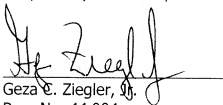
The arguments made in the previous response provide further description of the cited art, and should be reconsidered in view of the present amendment to the claims.

Thus, Osawa and Bush, taken either individually or in combination, or in combination with other ones of the cited references, do not anticipate or suggest the invention as set forth in the independent claims and in their respective dependent claims which provide still further distinctions over the cited art.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of \$790.00 for the "RCE" fee as well as for any other fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



Geza C. Ziegler, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,004

19 July 2006
Date

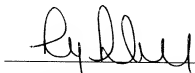
Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited transmitted electronically, on the date indicated below, addressed to the Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 19 July 2006

Signature:


Lisa Shimizu
Person Making Deposit